

Claim Amendments

Claim 1: (Currently Amended) A thickness control system for controlling the thickness of a blown film by providing air to the blown film when in liquid form and provided from an extrusion die, the system comprising:

an inlet for receiving air;

lips for providing air to an external surface of the blown film as the blown film exits the die, the lips arranged to be around the blown film as the blown film exits the die;

~~radially oriented channels for directing an annular region through which air is~~
directed inwardly from the inlet to the lips such that all the air provided into the ~~channel~~
region is passed through to the lips; and

a plurality of barriers movable ~~relative to the channel, with at least one barrier in~~
~~each of a number of the channels and being movable along a direction perpendicular to the~~
annular region for altering the flow of air through the ~~radial channel~~ annular region.

Claim 2: (Original) The system of claim 1, further comprising a sensor for sensing thickness of the blown film after the film solidifies, and a mechanical mover for moving the barriers in response to measurements from the sensor.

Claim 3: (Original) The system of claim 2, wherein the barriers are pistons, and the mover includes a servo-controlled motor for moving circumferentially around the blown film, the mover selectively adjusting the pistons.

Claim 4: (Currently Amended) The system of claim 1, wherein the annular region
includes walls that define a plurality of radially oriented channels ~~barriers are movable~~
manually.

Claim 5: (Currently Amended) The system of claim 4, wherein ~~the~~ each of the
barriers is threaded and ~~can be screwed~~ manually rotatable to allow more or less air flow.

Claim 6: (Currently Amended) The system of claim ~~4~~ 5, wherein the radially oriented radial channels are defined by a top wall, a bottom wall, and side walls, the barrier being mounted in ~~and movable relative to~~ the top wall.

Claim 7: (Original) The system of claim 1, wherein the system has one and only one set of lips for providing air to the external surface of the blown film as the film exits the extrusion die.

Claim 8: (Original) The system of claim 1, wherein the system has two and only two sets of lips for providing air to the external surface of the blown film as the film exits the extrusion die.

Claim 9: (Currently Amended) The system of claim ~~4~~ 4, wherein the barrier is located and configured such that a pressure drop within the radial channel across the barrier is at least 50% of the pressure drop across the lips.

Claim 10: (Currently Amended) The system of claim ~~1~~ 4, wherein the barrier is located and configured such that a pressure drop within the radial channel across the barrier is at least 100% of the pressure drop across the lips.

Claim 11: (Withdrawn) ~~A~~ The thickness control system of claim 1, wherein the annular region does not have separately walled radially oriented channels, and the barriers include for controlling the thickness of a blown film by providing air to the blown film when in liquid form and provided from an extrusion die, the system comprising:
—— an inlet for receiving air;
—— lips for providing air to an external surface of the blown film as the blown film exits the die, the lips arranged to be around the blown film as the blown film exits the die;
—— an annular region for providing air inwardly from the inlet to the lips such that all the air provided into the annular region is passed through to the lips; and

elongated radially oriented blocks movable for controlling a cross section of air flow through the annular region.

Claim 12: (Withdrawn) The system of claim 11, further comprising a sensor for sensing thickness of the blown film after the film solidifies, and a mechanical mover for moving the barriers in response to measurements from the sensor.

Claim 13: (Withdrawn) The system of claim 11, wherein the each of the barriers has a threaded rod that can be turned manually to move the elongated block.

Claim 14: (Withdrawn) The system of claim 13, wherein the ~~radial channels~~ radially oriented blocks are defined by a top wall, a bottom wall, and side walls, the threaded rod being mounted ~~in and movable relative~~ to the top wall.

Claim 15: (Withdrawn) The system of claim 11, wherein the system has one and only one set of lips for providing air to the external surface of the blown film as the film exits the extrusion die.

Claim 16: (Withdrawn) The system of claim 11, wherein the system has two and only two sets of lips for providing air to the external surface of the blown film as the film exits the extrusion die.

Claim 17: (Withdrawn) The system of claim 1, wherein the barrier is located and configured such that a pressure drop within the ~~radial channel~~ annular region across the barrier is at least 50% of the pressure drop across the lips.

Claim 18: (Withdrawn) The system of claim 1, wherein the barrier is located and configured such that a pressure drop within the ~~radial channel~~ annular region across the barrier is at least 100% of the pressure drop across the lips.

Claims 19-28: (Cancelled)

Claim 29: (New) A thickness control system for controlling the thickness of a blown film by providing air to the blown film when in liquid form and provided from an extrusion die, the system comprising:

- an inlet for receiving air;

- lips for providing air to an external surface of the blown film as the blown film exits the die, the lips arranged to be around the blown film as the blown film exits the die;

- an annular region for providing air inwardly from the inlet to the lips;

- a plurality of pistons movable within the annular region to alter the flow of air through the annular region; and

- a mover for moving circumferentially around the blown film to selectively adjust the pistons.

Claim 30. (New) The system of claim 29, wherein the mover includes a servo-controlled motor.

Claim 31. (New) The system of claim 29, wherein the pistons are in radially oriented channels defined by radially oriented walls.

Claim 32. (New) The system of claim 29, wherein all the air provided into the region is passed through to the lips.

Claim 33. (New) A thickness control system for controlling the thickness of a blown film by providing air to the blown film when in liquid form and provided from an extrusion die, the system comprising:

- an inlet for receiving air;

- lips for providing air to an external surface of the blown film as the blown film exits the die, the lips arranged to be around the blown film as the blown film exits the die;

- an annular region for providing air inwardly from the inlet to the lips; and

- a plurality of threaded barriers that extend into the annular region and that are manually rotatable for altering the flow of air through the annular region.

Claim 34. (New) The system of claim 33, wherein the threaded barriers are in radially oriented channels defined by radially oriented side walls.

Claim 35. (New) The system of claim 33, wherein all the air provided into the region is passed through to the lips.

Claim 36. (New) The system of claim 33, wherein the threaded barriers extend into radially oriented channels defined by radially oriented walls in the annular region.

Claim 37. (New) The system of claim 1, wherein the annular region is continuous and not divided into walled channels and the barriers abut each other.